

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated September 10, 2003 and have made amendments to the claims. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. By virtue of this amendment, claims 1-8 and 12-24 are pending. Claims 9-11 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In response to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121, Applicants elect for continued prosecution of the Group II claims (i.e., claims 1-8) drawn to forming a method of affixing substrates. To advance the prosecution of the application, all other previously-pending claims of Group I (i.e., claims 9-11) have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to later file divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims.

Further claims in Group III (i.e. claims 12-24) have been amended to depend from independent claim 1 (i.e. Group II). Since dependent claims contain all the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend, Group III claims are now drawn to a method of affixing substrates as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

CONCLUSION

In this Response, Applicants have amended certain claims. In light of the Office Action, Applicants believe these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of

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patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

Applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith in the disclosure of information known to be material to the examination of this application. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory surrendered by amendment is limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the Applicants and their attorneys.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (561) 989-9811 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 8, 2003

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